

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for integrating extracted images, comprising:
selecting a set of contour pixels defining a foreground region of an image;
determining a subpixel edge offset from the center of each contour pixel; and
determining an area of a portion of each contour pixel utilizing the subpixel edge offset to determine an opacity value (α) for each contour pixel.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising,
utilizing the opacity value (α) to smoothly mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent background region associated with another image.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising,
determining an edge orientation *via* a gradient applied to the image to produce a resultant gradient vector that is perpendicular to the edge orientation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the component determines gradient magnitudes along the resultant gradient vector in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising,
applying anisotropic smoothing in order to determine the gradient magnitudes.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising,
applying Gaussian smoothing to reduce pixel-wide noise associated with the image.
7. The method of claim 4, further comprising,
fitting a curve to the gradient magnitudes in order to determine the subpixel edge offset.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising,
integrating over the area defined by the subpixel edge offset and at least one side of the pixel in order to determine the opacity value (α).
9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.
10. A system for integrating extracted images, comprising:
means for selecting a set of contour pixels defining a foreground region of an image;
means for determining a subpixel edge offset from the center of each contour pixel; and
means for determining an area of a portion of each contour pixel utilizing the subpixel edge offset to determine an opacity value (α) for each contour pixel.
11. The system of claim 10, further comprising,
means for utilizing the opacity value (α) to smoothly mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent background region associated with another image.

12. A signal facilitating integration of extracted images, comprising:
 - a signal for communicating information associated with an image;
 - a first component for selecting a set of contour pixels defining a foreground region of the image *via* the signal, wherein the component determines a subpixel edge offset from the center of each contour pixel, and determines an area of a portion of each contour pixel utilizing the subpixel edge offset to determine an opacity value (α) for each contour pixel; and
 - a second component utilizing the opacity value (α) *via* the signal to smoothly mix the foreground region of the image with a subsequent background region associated with another image.
13. The signal of claim 12, wherein the signal is communicated over at least one of a network system and a wireless system.